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**New court website provides comprehensive details on  
the disciplinary process for Delaware judges**

In keeping with the Delaware court system's traditional commitment to openness, the Delaware Judiciary has created a new website that focuses on the Court on the Judiciary, the body charged with investigating and disciplining state court judges.

The new website provides important legal information about the structure and authority of the Court on the Judiciary. It also has a list of Frequently Asked Questions and their answers in plain English, an easy to understand flow-chart showing how the complaint process works, complaint forms and links to past decisions by the Court on the Judiciary where discipline was imposed.

The Court of the Judiciary, which was created by a constitutional amendment in 1969, is made up of the Chief Justice and the other Justices of the Supreme Court and the Presiding Judges of the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, the Family Court and the Court of Common Pleas. (Legislation is pending that will add the Chief Magistrate of the Justice of the Peace Court.)

The Court on the Judiciary draws its authority from Article IV Section 37 of the Delaware Constitution and has the power to discipline any state judge for willful misconduct in office, willful and persistent failure to perform duties, offenses involving "moral turpitude," and other persistent misconduct in violation of the *Delaware Judges' Code of Judicial Conduct*. The Court on the Judiciary may also retire a judicial officer suffering from a mental or physical disability that interferes with the proper performance of their duties.

The website also lists the members of the Preliminary Investigatory Committee – who are well respected members of the Bar and members of the public. The Committee investigates complaints referred to it and submits written findings and recommendations to the Court on the Judiciary to allow it take appropriate action.

In the months leading up to the launch of the website, the Delaware Judiciary has also amended the rules related to the Court on the Judiciary to bring greater clarity and simplicity to the process.

The new website on the Court on the Judiciary can be found at <http://courts.delaware.gov/coj/>.

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